

DEAR EDITOR: In an editorial on the Army Nurse Corps in the March JOURNAL you say, for three years the JOURNAL has tried to find out why nurses decline to enter the Army Nurse Corps, and ask if it is not time for those who know whereof they speak to express themselves.

I have done private nursing, institutional work, and, with the exception of six months, have been in the Army Nurse Corps since 1900. So I think I may be numbered among those "who know whereof they speak." I cannot understand why nurses decline to enter the service. That army nursing has its disadvantages, none of us deny, but to my mind the disadvantages encountered in private nursing and in institutional work are far greater. In Mrs. Kinney's letter to the JOURNAL in February she says: "From those who have had a long and happy experience in its ranks"—the Army Nurse Corps—"but little is heard. It is the soreheads who rush into print." May not this have much to do with nurses declining to enter the service? If so, I think it is time for those who have had a long and happy experience to express themselves—hence this letter.

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#### THE CATHETERIZATION OF MALE PATIENTS

DEAR EDITOR: I noticed in the last edition of the JOURNAL OF NURSING, that the question of male catheterization is still before us. When I went into training, like many another young woman, I knew nothing of the care of male patients. The first few days of my probation were not spent in caring for patients, but one of the first things I was asked to do for a patient was to give a young man a bedpan. Imagine my embarrassment, and the patient was as uncomfortable as I, knowing how unpleasant it was for me. Gradually I became accustomed to caring for male patients, but it was always hard to do some of the things that a nurse is called upon to do, during her training. I agree with "R. C." that nurses should have a more thorough knowledge of the human body in both male and female, but I do not think in a hospital where there are internes and male nurses that a female nurse should catheterize a male patient, especially the class of young men and boys one is apt to meet in the wards and who cannot understand why a nurse is a nurse and what it means. It is true there are some nurses from whom the act of catheterizing a male would detract nothing—she would still be the same dignified, discreet, womanly nurse, but there are some

others who have not enough stability of character, and would be better out of a male ward. It is a very simple matter to catheterize a male patient. A nurse in training need not feel that she is not a competent nurse if she has not had it to do in her training-school. She may never have it to do in her nursing career; but if she should be on a case in the country, as I once was, with no doctor for miles around, and the patient suffering much, she would be a poor nurse indeed if, with all her general training, she could not give her patient relief.

MAY ALZADA MOTT.

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MY DEAR EDITOR: In reference to the question of the Army Nurse Corps, it was suggested to me not long ago, that the fact that 80 per cent. of the cases as reported in the Military Surgeons' Magazine, are venereal cases, might have something to do with this hesitancy on the part of the nurses. I do not know how true this is, but thought I would just mention it to you, as it sounds plausible.

C. E.



#### BRIGHT WOMEN

IN Amsterdam a woman has been made the head of the two large municipal hospitals, with a corps of seven woman assistants. In the Pathological Institute at Berlin there is a woman, Dr. Lydia Rabino-witsch, who has made herself one of the leading tuberculosis experts of the world. She was a prominent member of both the London and the Paris tuberculosis congresses, and almost every medical society in Europe has honored her in one way or another. She has published a set of books on bacteriology which are rapidly being accepted as standard text-books.

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"RESOLVED, That I have named my boat Advice so no one will take it. There have been so many boats missing around here lately. But nobody will take advice. The only man who will take advice is the man who does n't need it—you can get tons of advice when you don't need it, but directly you need it you must pay well for it."—*Buster Brown*.

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It was announced recently that Mrs. Russell Sage had given \$5,000 toward the permanent endowment fund of the Hospital of the Good Shepherd in Syracuse, N. Y.